Ronald Waddell [redacted]

July 27, 1998

Dear Mr. Waddell:

It was a pleasure to know and work with Ray Williamson.

I have been out of town teaching numismatics and thus the delay in answering.

For a talk to a local coin club you can use paper money illustrations from books, either photocopies, slides or transparencies made from the books you have. All those you mention are black and white in the original.

I hope your program goes well.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, Mo. 63105

March 29, 2000

Dear Mr. Newman,

I wrote you about two years ago requesting some information on early american paper money and I thank you for your response. At the time I mentioned an old friend, Ray Williamson. I have another story, concerning Ray, that I had intended to write you about which I thought would be of interest. I had put the material aside and writing had slipped my mind.

I acquired a small book from Hazel Williamson's estate, which is in only fair condition but included some letters from Ray that made the book kind of intriguing. The book is A. M. Hart's "History of the Issues of Paper Money in the American Colonies, Anterior to the Revolution – St. Louis, 1851". The letters pertain to Ray's efforts to obtain a copy of the "Chart". I thought I would take on his project and see what I could find – this being about 20 years later.

Ray must have acquired the book (without the Chart) in the late 1970's and in 1977 began writing to various Libraries and people to try and get a reproduction of the Chart. Over the next two years he wrote to the Smithsonian Institute, ANA, ANS, Library of Congress, Huntington Library, John Crerar Library, Yale University. He followed one lead after another but each one seemed to have a copy of the book, but without the Chart. The last letter was to Yale University in Aug. 1979, after which Ray must have given up.

I had more luck. Not long after getting the book, I saw an article in Banknote Reporter concerning his sale of the Harry W. Bass, Jr. Numismatic Library. The highlight of the sale was A. M. Hart's book, complete with Chart. But what interested me most was the fact that there are only two copies known that include the chart – one owned by Ray's good friend Eric Newman. I can't believe Ray didn't ask you about the book since you are the authority on early american paper money, but I guess he didn't. I know he corresponded regularly with you. Maybe you didn't have the book at the time. Regardless, it just goes to show that sometimes you don't look in the most obvious places or ask the right people.

I have the Kolbe catalog and can get a copy of the chart from that but haven't decided if I will have the book rebound. I think it should be rebound so will have to look for a good book restorer.

I hope you enjoyed the story.

Sincerely,

Ron

Ronald Waddell
PO Box 840
Forest, VA. 24551

Ronald Waddell
P.O. Box 840
Forest, VA 24551

April 3, 2000

Dear Ron:

You letter of March 29, 2000 fascinated me. I never knew Ray was seeking such information about Hart's Chart. I have had my Hart with the chart since shortly after the Streeter book auction sale in 1966 or 1967.
Sometimes collectors fail to ask questions for fear they will cause others to seek the same item in competition with them.
I do not know who bought the Bass copy or what they paid for it but it had a separate sale sheet by Kolbe as you know.

As to restoring your copy you should hesitate, as nice copies of the pamphlet without the chart are sometimes available. This is a pure matter of worthwhile expenditure. There was one (no chart) in the Charles Davis auction of March 4, 2000.
I hope I have been helpful. I enjoy hearing anything about Ray but am sorry he avoided asking me. You did. Hope to hear from you in less than two years this time.

Thrive.

Eric P. Newman

Waddell

P.S. Are you related to William Wadill who was a Virginia engraver who cut Virginia paper money insignia in 1770?

Mr. Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, Mo. 63105

April 23, 2000

Dear Eric,

Received your letter and I'm glad you enjoyed the story about Ray's search for the Hart chart. I thought it would be of interest. Thanks very much for the information on the book. I called Charles Davis and he told me the copy he sold in March had some loose binding and brought $400-500. That surprised me, even though the complete copy (Bass copy) in the Kolbe auction brought $19,000. Can you believe that? – and you have the other copy. I had assumed, after seeing the Kolbe price, that the difference between the copy w/chart and my copy was like having a MS-63 1794 Dollar versus one with a hole in it. However, I'm happy with my copy – especially with the story that goes with it.

Mr. Davis also said that rebinding was not practical. He mentioned some kind of box (archival, I think he said) that could be used to store the book in. I'll have to see what I can find. This will probably work since I want to keep Ray's correspondence with the book.

You mentioned the name Waddill in your letter, relating to a Virginia engraver. I'm glad you did mention it because I was not aware of this gentleman and the Virginia notes. I see from your book that he was involved with two issues, 1770 and 1771. These are not priced in your book and the pictures are of counterfeits. Does that mean that they are rare or a lack of information? I'll have to see if I can find one. I bid on a New York City note of 1775 in a Bowers auction (but wasn't successful) since one of the signers was a William Waddell. I assume these were two different people. No relationship that I'm aware of to either gentleman.

I have copies of documents that related to some of my relatives in Tennessee in the 1700-1800's that seemed to switch back and forth from Waddill to Waddle to Waddell. I think they just spelled a name the way it sounded in those days.

[redacted]

I had meant to ask before – is your "Numismatic Education Society" a museum? I may be in the St. Louis area this summer and would like to visit, if it is. Let me know. I'm originally from Rockport, IN which is near Evansville, not too far from St. Louis.

Better stop for now. Thanks again for the information.

Sincerely,

Ron

Ronald Waddell
PO Box 840
Forest, VA. 24551

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6250 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Ronald Waddell
P.O. Box 840
Forest, VA 24551

May 8, 2000

Your interesting letter of April 23, 2000 is at hand.

You asked about the pictures in my book. Whenever I could locate a genuine piece I used it. I only used counterfeits when no genuine piece was known to me. Thus that practice indicates rarity. The counterfeits are separately described in the Appendix.

This organization operated a numismatic museum in downtown St. Louis for 20 years, but was tossed out by the bank which furnished the space in an effort to improve its bottom line for a sell out which then occurred. Our museum is in storage awaiting a reincarnation but are presently conducting educational programs, research and assisting others with the use of our extensive numismatic library. If you are going to be here please let me know in advance and what you may wish to see.

Sincerely,

Eric P. Newman